

E. N. FERDON, JR.

1913-2002

EDWIN NELSON FERDON SUCCUMBED to cancer on November 13, 2002 at the age of 89. Born in Minnesota, Ed's interest in archaeology bloomed when, as an Eagle Scout, he led a group in trenching a Hopewell culture Indian mound in Ohio. Ferdon



graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1937 and later received a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He began working for the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe 1937, but left when offered an opportunity for fieldwork in Ecuador where he spent over three years hiking the Andes and rainforests while conducting a survey of

archeological sites. Ed's career direction changed dramatically in 1955 after Thor Heyerdahl asked him to be one of the archaeologists on the expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific. He later published his own recollections of the expedition in *One Man's Log* and co-authored with Heyerdahl two voluminous books of scientific reports of the expedition. "Ed Ferdon was a pioneer of Pacific anthropology," said John Olson, director of the UA Department of Anthropology. "He managed to weld ethnographic and archaeological perspectives on large-scale human migrations into coherent, testable hypotheses for the first peopling of the Pacific Basin."

Ed published widely, authoring some 40 monographs and articles on subjects ranging from Ecuadorian geography to Polynesian culture and crop origins, Hohokam ball courts, and the ruins of Tonalá, Chiapas. He published three books on pre-missionary Polynesian cultures in Tahiti, Tonga, and the Marquesas Islands. The forth and final book in the series is tentatively entitled *Contact and Change in Old Hawaii: An Ethno-historic Study*.

JEHANNE TEILHET-FISK

1939-2002

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY LOST a beloved member when Dr. Jehanne H. Teilhet-Fisk passed away on August 28, 2002 at the age of 63. Jehanne had battled cancer several times and inspired many with her courage, determination and stamina. She is survived by her husband, Zachary, daughter Samantha, and step-daughter, Rebekah.

While Jehanne is perhaps best known for her work in the Kingdom of Tonga, she came to the study of Polynesian arts by way of Africa and Native America. Jehanne spent two years as curator at the National Museum in Jos, Nigeria, and also did research in Suriname and Haiti. Her residence in the Southwest placed her among the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico where she frequently attended cultural events and enjoyed studying

Native American arts. After finishing her dissertation in art history, published as *Paradise Reviewed: An Interpretation of Gauguin's Polynesian Symbolism*, at the University of California, Los Angeles, Jehanne concentrated on teaching. In 1969, she joined the faculty at the newly established Department of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego. Jehanne developed courses in the non-western arts, her most popular was VA13 which routinely was filled to capacity with eager students. Jehanne demonstrated the potential and value extant in the outside world and encouraged her students to look for humanity, beauty and spirituality outside our own experiences. In addition to art historians, she directly influenced the careers of filmmakers, photographers, dancers, musicians, artists, anthropologists, and many others.

Jehanne considered fieldwork an intrinsic part of the educational experience and arranged for students to accompany her into the field. Few would venture to live in a small island guesthouse with a dozen college students of extremely diverse backgrounds while conducting her own research (with herself as sole chaperone)! In addition to travel experiences, Jehanne also welcomed partners in the curatorial process and produced two exhibitions with groups of students: *Dimensions of Black* and *Dimensions of Polynesia* (1973). She was honored with the University of California's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990. Despite various challenges, Jehanne remained a most generous and dedicated teacher and worked tirelessly to impart her respect and admiration for other cultures.

In the early 1990s she worked on Tongan clothing, the *tao'vala* and *kiekie*, as well as "grave art", published in *Pacific Arts* and *Art and Identity in Oceania* respectively. Other articles on Tongan arts included "To beat or not to beat, that is the question: a study on acculturation and change in an art-making process and its relation to gender structures" about the ngatu machine invented by Geoffrey Houghland (in *Pacific Studies*). She was a judge at various Miss Heilala competitions and wrote an essay about Tongan beauty pageants in the book, *Beauty Queens on the Global Stage*. Other topics include the question of masking in Polynesia, Heilala Pageant Parades as well as the possible origins of Tongan ivory goddess figures.

In 1994, the Fisk family moved to Tallahassee, Florida, where she joined the faculty of the Department of Art History at Florida State University. Jehanne brought her expertise to a department ripe for change and quickly attracted students to her new graduate program. In the spring of 1996, Jehanne and Robin Nigh co-curated an elaborate exhibition, *Dimensions of Native America: The Contact Zone*. She contributed an essay on Plains Indian quilting while mentoring the students writing



the accompanying publication. Her last expedition to Tonga was in the summer of 1998 and included her daughter, Samantha, and five students. Together they documented the celebrations for King Taufa'āhau Tupou's 80th Birthday.

There are many of us who owe a tremendous debt to Jehanne Teilhet-Fisk. Her inquisitive mind, wonderful sense of humor and generosity remain fixed in my memory. Jehanne enriched the studies of so many with such tenacity and character that her absence leaves a profound void. Teachers of her caliber are so rare; all of us who worked with her are fortunate to have our lives touched by such an indomitable, incredible woman. *Ofa Atu...*

— Hilary Scothorn

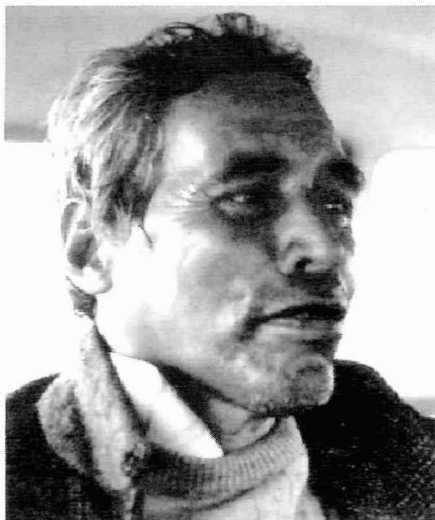
FELIPE TEO

1917-2002

FELIPE TEO ARANCIVIA, better known on the island as "Hani Hani" due to his dark suntanned complexion, died last year. I first met Felipe in 1981 and for several years he worked with my research project. He was remarkable, with a great zest for life — a sort of Zorba-the-Greek, Rapanui style. He could range over the landscape like a goat, leaping from rock to rock. He knew every cave, every site, every petroglyph; he knew which rocks contained *aku-aku* and knew all the various legends about them.

Felipe first tasted fame in 1954 when he and two other islanders sailed off for Tahiti in an open boat. They rigged a sail from a tarpaulin, gathered supplies, and set off for the big adventure. In those days, islanders were forbidden to leave the island, so this was all done surreptitiously. They had two watches, one pocket compass with a broken needle, and an old map of the Pacific torn from a schoolbook. After weeks at sea, they ran aground on Kauehi, an atoll north of the Tuamotu archipelago. They had covered 1230 nautical miles (3830 km) without ever seeing a vessel or sighting land (Putigny 1973). They had run out of food and water, caught flying fish, guided their boat by stars, and finally reached land. Weak from hunger and thirst, they staggered into the small village on Kauehi, but found it deserted. But then they heard voices and followed the noise to discover the entire village at the Sunday soccer match. They made it onto the field, but the gendarme thought they were drunk and came to arrest them (it was against the law to be drunk on Sunday!). Finally it was realized that they were the lost fishermen that had been mentioned on the short wave radio. The mayor made a speech and brought a nurse to administer to them. Felipe is reported to have replied, "I'm hungry, I need food and water. I'll have the woman later".

The adventurers ended up in Tahiti and Felipe lived there



for some years, and acquired a vahine and some children. One day a ship came into Pape'ete with an old friend aboard. Felipe went on the ship to have some drinks and talk about old times with his friend. He passed out and when he awoke, the ship was on its way to Easter Island. He never returned to Tahiti.

In 1982, Felipe was invited to appear on TV in Chile because of his remarkable sea voyage to the Tuamotus. This was a sort of Merv Griffith-type program and the TV scouts offered to pay his way, buy him new clothes, and give him a TV plus some cash. He had never been to the Chile mainland and was nervous about the trip and worried about his shabby clothes. But true to their word, the TV folks outfitted him in new clothes and gave him the royal treatment. He appeared on the TV program with a South American beauty queen sporting serious cleavage, and the Bishop of Santiago. The Bishop spoke first, advocating marriage and the family. Then it was Felipe's turn. The talk show MC asked Felipe what life was like as a child on Rapa Nui. He replied, "we were so poor, until I was seven, my balls were in view". The audience roared. Asked how many children he had, he said 17. More applause. Then the MC said, "Tell us about your wife." Felipe eyebrows shot up. "Wife? What wife?" By this time, the audience was helpless with laughter.

The next day Felipe was taken around the city, to the zoo, etc. Everywhere he went, people who had seen him on TV came up and shook his hand and bought him a beer. Felipe was taken via the funicular to the mountaintop, and described it later as "they put me in a little box suspended by a wire, and I went up to the top". He was stunned to see huge shopping centers, traffic, elevators, and escalators.

He returned to Rapa Nui a few days later and got off the plane looking elegant in new dark blue denims, windbreaker, new hiking boots, new shirt, and a plaid cap. The entire village went to the airport to greet him. Felipe brought his new color TV, presents for all his family, and food he had bought on the mainland. He had more than 350 lbs excess baggage. The University of Chile gave him a framed Certificate of Merit, with lots of official seals. He was very proud of it.

We were sad to hear of his death, although we knew he had been ill for some time. Felipe, however, lives on in our memories. We can see him in our mind's eye, roaming over the landscape, savoring his beloved island, and warning us of the *aku-aku* lurking in the hollows of the rocks.

— Georgia Lee

NICOLAS HAOA

1929-2003

NICO DIED IN THE MORNING of Wednesday, 29 January. He was the youngest of the five children of Magdalena Haoa Araki and Lachlan McKinnon. The five were:

Rafael Haoa (1924 – 2002)
 Napoleon (Rafael's twin who died at birth)
 Reina 1926-
 Juan 1928 (Died at age 2 weeks)
 Nicolas 1929- 2003

Owing in part to his brother Rafael's influence, Nicolas was accepted into the Chilean Navy. But, unlike his brother, his posting was mostly on Rapa Nui. Around 1968, Nicolas be-